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## The Farm

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# The Farm

Jeannine Messina

the narrow dirt road disappears slowly  
giving way to overgrown bushes and weeds  
rocks, holes, debris, nearly deters you,  
yet, there stands the farmhouse

a place once filled with love and laughter  
you can almost sense aromas in the air  
of chicken and noodles, homemade cakes and pies

outbuildings now fallen into decay  
lean awkwardly, barely stand  
inhabited by wild animals and insects

no longer able to distinguish  
where neat rows of crops once stood  
berry vines, vegetable and flower gardens  
all gone back to nature

the well and pump house  
with water clear and cold  
has been destroyed by passing time

under the tree sits the idle, rusty swing,  
where we learned to play the harmonica and mumbly-peg  
what good times and fun we had on the farm

still I see it as once it stood,  
sturdy, straight, always welcoming  
lovingly etched forever in my mind